

*Cont'd*  
other.

10. (Amended) A method of operating a control unit of a system for activating at least one of a plurality of modules in order to generate information regarding at least one of a plurality of states of the system, comprising the steps of:

providing a first storage device for storing information relating to a mutual interference of the modules;

providing a second storage device storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated;

before an activation of an additional module is performed, determining as a function of the information stored in the first storage device and the information stored in the second storage device whether the mutual interference occurs if the additional module is activated; and

preventing a simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added. Applicants request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,070,453 to Duffany ("Duffany"). It is respectfully submitted that Duffany does not anticipate the aforementioned claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites the following:

. . . a second storage device for storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated . . . .

Claims 3-7 and 9 depend from claim 1. Claim 10 recites the following:

providing a second storage device storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated . . . .

Claims 12-14 depend from claim 10.

As regards Applicants' recited second storage device, the Examiner apparently

relies on the program store 815 that contains a sequence of instructions (described in Duffany). Respectfully, the sequence of information are is state information regarding the modules, and, in particular, are not state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated, as recited in claims 1 and 10. The instructions are merely program instructions (i.e., software). Duffany also does not suggest the recited state information.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Duffany does not anticipate either of claims 1 and 10, or any of the claims that depend therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is, therefore, requested.

Claims 2, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Duffany in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,437,342 to Hosaka et al. ("Hosaka"). Claims 2 and 8 depend from claim 1 and claim 11 depends from claim 10. Accordingly, the arguments presented above in connection with Duffany and claims 1 and 10 apply equally to claims 2, 8, and 11. Hosaka does not cure the deficiencies of Duffany. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Duffany in view of Hosaka does not render obvious any of claims 2, 8 and 11. It is therefore requested that the rejection of claims 2, 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

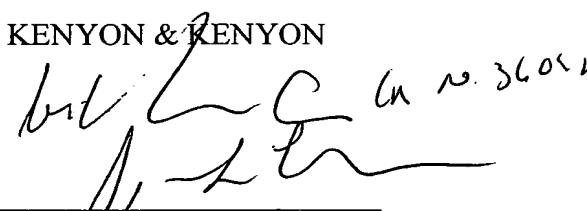
Applicants note that two Information Disclosure Statements were filed in connection with the present application (mailing dates of July 17, 1998 and July 29, 1999).

However, Applicants have not yet received copies of the initialed PTO-1449s corresponding thereto. It is requested that the Examiner provide copies of the initialed PTO-1449s with the next communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A control unit for a system having a plurality of activatable modules for generating information as a function of at least one of a plurality of states of the system, comprising:

*Sub C1*  
a first storage device for storing information relating to a mutual interference of the modules;

a second storage device for storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated; and

a scheduler for activating at least one of the modules and determining as a function of the information stored in the first storage device and the information stored in the second storage device whether the mutual interference occurs if an additional module is activated, wherein the scheduler prevents a simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other.

10. (Amended) A method of operating a control unit of a system for activating at least one of a plurality of modules in order to generate information regarding at least one of a plurality of states of the system, comprising the steps of:

*Sub B1*  
providing a first storage device for storing information relating to a mutual interference of the modules;

providing a second storage device [for] storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated;

before an activation of an additional module is performed, determining as a function of the information stored in the first storage device and the information stored in the second storage device whether the mutual interference occurs if the additional module is activated; and

preventing a simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other.